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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report details budgetary requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008. The additional expenditure requirements arising as a result of those resolutions and decisions are estimated at $420,500 under the regular budget, all of which could be absorbed within the resources provided under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The requirements for the biennium 2010-2011 will be considered within the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

The decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008 also entail modifications to the programme of work under sections 16 and 18 resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which are contained in the present report for approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, for which no provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and which would have an impact on the estimates of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions. The additional requirements entailed by the Council's resolutions and decisions are described below.

3. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 (A/54/7/Add.2), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2008 to be financed from the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and those of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, are indicated in the annex to the present report.

4. The decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008 also entail modifications to the programme of work under sections 16 and 18 resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which are contained in the present report for approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

II. Additional requirements and modifications to the programme of work entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council

A. Resolution 2008/10: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

5. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of its resolution 2008/10, the Council:

(a) Decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2009, with

[1] The proposed programme budget is contained in documents A/62/6 (Introduction) and Corr.1, (Sects. 1-3), (Sect. 4) and Corr.1, (Sects. 5-7), (Sect. 8) and Corr.1, (Sects. 9-11), (Sect. 12) and Corr.1, (Sects. 13-18), (Sect. 19) and Corr.1, (Sects. 20-22), (Sect. 23) and Corr.1, (Sect. 24) and Corr.1, (Sects. 25-27), (Sect. 28), (Sect. 28A) and Corr.1, (Sect. 28B) and Corr.1, (Sect. 28C) and Corr.1, (Sect. 28D), (Sect. 28E) and Corr.1 and 2, (Sects. 28F and G), (Sect. 29) and Corr.1, (Sects. 30-35) and (Income sects. 1-3).

the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities and building upon the Interim Cooperation Framework and the growth and poverty reduction strategy paper, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

(b) Expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, and requested him to continue to support the Group's activities adequately from within existing resources;

(c) Requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009.

6. It is estimated that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti would consist of travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for four members of the Group and one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to undertake a mission to Haiti in April 2009. The resource requirements for undertaking the consultation mission are estimated at $13,500 and would provide for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses ($11,500 for four members of the Group and $2,000 for one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), for which the funds had not been provided in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

7. In this connection, in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007 (A/62/515) which contained similar requests, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that all efforts would be made to meet the estimated requirements of $13,500 under section 9, Economic and social affairs of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, together with extrabudgetary funds. The meeting in April 2008 was cancelled. It is proposed that all possible efforts be made to meet the requirements of $13,500 for 2009, under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, together with extrabudgetary funds. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is required nor sought from the General Assembly in regard to the resolution.

B. Decision 2008/234: documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation: (a) report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2008/15/Add.1 and Add.2)

8. Section I.A. of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields: matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention (E/2008/15/Add.1), contains a draft resolution approved by ESCAP for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, by which the Council would:

(a) Endorse the resolution on the restructuring of the conference structure of ESCAP as set out in annex I to the resolution;

(b) Also endorse the annexes to the resolution on the conference structure of the Commission; on issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission; and on the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, as set out in annexes II, III and IV to the resolution.

9. In section II.B. of the report, the attention of the Council is drawn to the nine resolutions (64/2 through 64/10), adopted by ESCAP at its sixty-fourth session.

10. In paragraph (a) of its decision 2008/234, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2008/15/Add.1 and Add.2).

11. With regard to paragraph 9, the Secretariat brought to the attention of the Council the fact that it had informed ESCAP that the implementation of the requests in the draft resolution would require modifications of the approved programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 at the level of planned outputs in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 18)). The Council was further informed that, by endorsing the Commission's resolution, it would endorse the modifications in the 2008-2009 programme budget, which are outlined in paragraph 15 below.

12. The attention of the Economic and Social Council was also drawn to annex I to the report of the Commission (E/2008/39) which contained a statement of programme budget implications relating to the above-mentioned resolutions 64/2 to 64/10 adopted by ESCAP, as well as to resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission. It is confirmed that the statement remains valid, the requests contained in the resolution do not entail any additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009 from the regular budget and that extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the aforementioned ESCAP resolutions.

13. Pursuant to ESCAP resolution 64/1, the Commission decided to revise its conference structure, with immediate effect, to conform to the pattern outlined in annex I to the resolution. To this effect and under the terms of operative paragraphs 2 to 7 of the resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take into account the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission in the future programme of work and strategic framework of the organization;

(b) Bearing in mind the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission;

(c) To provide members and associate members with a preliminary assessment of the organizational and staffing implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

(d) To continue efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation, as applicable to ESCAP, of General Assembly resolution 61/266;

(e) To undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of the conference structure and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission;

(f) To report to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure had served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve as the basis for a mid-term review of the effective functioning of the conference structure to be conducted during the sixty-seventh session;

14. The requests contained in ESCAP resolution 64/1 fall under the overall programme of work of ESCAP and are consistent with the approved biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6/Rev.1 (Prog. 15)) and with the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (A/63/6 (Prog. 15)), which was reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session held at United Nations Headquarters in June 2008, and is scheduled to be reviewed by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

15. Implementation of the requests contained in the resolution would require modifications of the approved programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 at the level of planned outputs in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 18)), as reflected below. The number of outputs would be adjusted depending on the periodicity and length of the meetings of the commission and its subsidiary bodies referred to below.

(a) Executive direction and management:

Paragraph 18.33

(a) (i) a. Substantive servicing of meetings: (The number of sessions of ESCAP would be adjusted);

(a) (ii) a. Substantive servicing of meetings: (The number of plenary meetings of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries would be adjusted);

(a) b. The words "Parliamentary documentation: report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries" would be deleted (the report would be included in the report of the Commission);

(b) Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development:

Paragraph 18.37

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Poverty Reduction" would be replaced with the words "Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development";

(c) Subprogramme 2. Statistics:

Paragraph 18.43

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Poverty Reduction" would be replaced with "Committee on Statistics";

(a) (ii) b. The words "Report of the Committee of Statistics (1)" would be inserted after the words "reports on issues related to poverty statistics";

(d) Subprogramme 3. Development of Pacific island countries and territories:

Paragraph 18.48

(a) (iii) The words "Committee on Poverty Reduction" would be replaced with "Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development";

(e) Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment:

Paragraph 18.53

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Managing Globalization (Part I)" would be replaced with "Committee on Trade and Investment";

(a) (ii) b. The words "report of the Committee on Trade and Investment" would be inserted after the words "reports on issues related to trade and investment";

(f) Subprogramme 5. Transport and tourism:

Paragraph 18.58

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Managing Globalization" would be replaced with "Committee on Transport";

(a) The following text, "(iii) Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport."

"a. Substantive servicing of meetings: first session (2009)" would be inserted and the succeeding paragraphs under paragraph 18.58 (a) would be renumbered accordingly;

(g) Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development:

Paragraph 18.63

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Managing Globalization (Part II)" would be replaced with "Committee on Environment and Development";

(h) Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology:

Paragraph 18.70

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Managing Globalization (Part II)" would be replaced with "Committee on Information, Communication and Space Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction";

(a) (ii) b. The words "report of the Committee on Information, Communication and Space Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction" would be inserted after the words "reports related to cross-cutting issues on information, communication and space technology";

(i) Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues:

Paragraph 18.75

(a) (ii) The words "Committee on Emerging Social Issues" would be replaced with "Committee on Social Development".

C. Decision 2008/245: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its eighteenth session

16. In its decision 2008/245, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its eighteenth session.

17. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, at the time of adoption of its decision 2008/245, the Council was informed that, in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, oral statements of programme budget implications had been provided to the Commission at the time of its adoption of the draft resolutions and decisions, which are contained in annexes II to IV to the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2008/30).

18. The Secretariat confirms that the statements of programme budget implications annexed to the report of the Commission (E/2008/30) remain valid; hence the resolutions and decisions do not entail any additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009. However, additional extrabudgetary resources would be required for their implementation, as referred to in annexes III to V. The Commission was also informed, as reflected in the programme budget implication statement in annex VI of its report (E/2008/30), that to facilitate the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on conference-servicing would be provided on an "as available" basis and would require the approval of the Committee on Conferences of the General Assembly.

D. Decision 2008/247: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission

19. In its decision 2008/247, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission.

20. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, at the time of adoption of its decision 2008/247, the Council was informed that, in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, oral statements of programme budget implications were provided to the Commission at the time of its adoption of the draft resolutions and decisions, which are contained in annexes II to VII to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session (E/2008/28).

21. The Council was also informed that, at the time of adoption of resolution 51/4 by the Commission, the Secretariat brought to the attention of the Commission the fact that the implementation of the requests contained in the draft resolution would require modifications of the approved programme of work, at the level of planned outputs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 16)), as follows:

Subprogramme 2. Services for policymaking and treaty adherence:

Paragraph 16.44 (a)

(a) A new subparagraph, which would read, "(viii) Ad hoc expert groups: drug demand reduction (2); supply reduction (manufacture and trafficking) (2); countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation (2); international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development (2); control of precursors and of amphetamine-type stimulants (2)" would be inserted;

(b) The succeeding paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

22. Accordingly, the Council, by taking note of the Commission's resolution, endorsed the modifications in the 2008-2009 programme budget.

23. The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to annexes II to VII to the report of the Commission (E/2008/28), which contain the respective statements of financial implications of its resolutions and decisions. It is confirmed that these statements remain valid and do not entail any additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009. It is envisaged that additional extrabudgetary resources would be required for the implementation of the activities referred to in annexes II to V. Conference-servicing would be provided on an "as available" basis and would require the approval of the Committee on Conferences of the General Assembly with respect to resolution 51/4, referred to in annex VII.

E. Decisions 2008/249 and 2008/250: international expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; venue and dates of the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

24. In its decisions 2008/249 and 2008/250, the Economic and Social Council decided: (a) to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and requested that the results of the meeting be reported to the Permanent Forum at its eighth session; and (b) that the eighth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 29 May 2009. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and

Social Council, the Council was informed of the programme budget implications of its decisions in an oral statement by the Secretariat.

25. As regards decision 2008/249, it is understood that the intention of the Forum is to decide on the priority theme of one of the two expert group meetings, as currently programmed under subprogramme 3, Social policy and development of section 9, Economic and social affairs of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Therefore, no changes in the programme narrative of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 are required, nor are additional resources required for implementation of this activity.

26. As regards decision 2008/250, the related dates of 18 to 29 May 2009 will be reflected in the 2009 calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations. No additional programmatic and budgetary implications are envisaged in this regard.

27. The Forum also adopted a number of recommendations, which are contained in the report on its seventh session (E/2008/43), two of which are referred to in paragraph 29 below, that may entail programme budget implications for various entities of the United Nations system. The attention of the Forum was drawn, in this connection, to paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 57/191, in which the Assembly requested the establishment of a voluntary fund for the Forum for the purpose of funding the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum through the Economic and Social Council, in line with paragraph 2 (a) of Council resolution 2000/22, as well as funding activities under its mandate, as defined in paragraphs 2 (b) and (c) of the same resolution. Therefore, it is expected that the funding of the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum would be met through voluntary contributions.

28. Paragraphs 22 and 118 of document E/2008/43 provide for the appointment of special rapporteurs of the Forum to prepare various studies. It is recalled that, in accordance with established practice, the special rapporteurs appointed by the Forum provide their services at no cost to the Organization and results of their work are disseminated through postings on the Department of Economic and Social Affairs website and therefore entail no additional financial requirements.

29. There are no programme budget implications resulting from the other recommendations contained in document E/2008/43.

30. In summary, the decisions and recommendations of the Forum, contained in documents E/2008/43, do not entail financial implications for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

III. Overall requirements

31. The implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2008 would give rise to additional requirements of $420,500 for the biennium 2008-2009, as shown in the table below and in the annex, all of which can be absorbed within the relevant sections of the approved appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009. Moreover, additional extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of a number of the resolutions. For the biennium 2010-2011, the requirements will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

Additional requirements for the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011

(United States dollars)

	2008-2009
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	407 000
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	13 500
Section 16. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	—
Section 18. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	—
Total	**420 500**

IV. Recommendation

32. **In summary, the implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2008 would give rise to additional requirements which will be absorbed in the relevant sections of the appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009, as follows for the biennium 2008-2009, totalling $420,500; under: (a) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($407,000); and (b) section 9, Economic and social affairs ($13,500). For the biennium 2010-2011, these requirements will be sought in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

33. **Additional appropriations are not sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under sections 2, 9, 16 and 18. Should the actual requirements exceed the absorptive capacity of the aforementioned sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009. Extrabudgetary funds are also expected to cover the need for supplementary resources that have been identified in the biennium 2008-2009.**

Annex

Summary of requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008

			2008-2009
		Budget section	*Requirements for expenditure[a] (to be absorbed)*
Economic and Social Council resolutions			
2008/10	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	9	13 500
Economic and Social Council decisions			
2008/234	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation: (a) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields	18	[a]
2008/245	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its eighteenth session	2 16	[a]
2008/247	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission	2 16	407 000 [a]
2008/249 and 2008/250	International expert group meeting on indigenous languages and venue and dates of the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	2 9 23	— [a] —[b]
Total			**420 500**

[a] All requirements for expenditure are to be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009.
[b] Resources required will be provided from extrabudgetary resources.